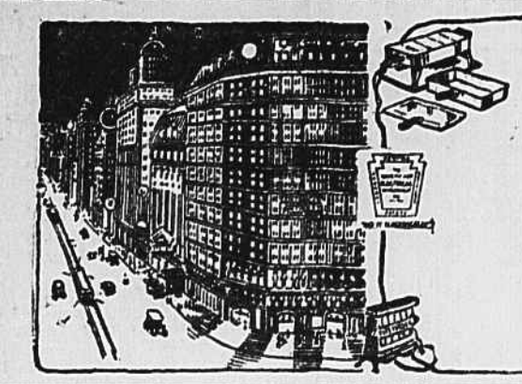
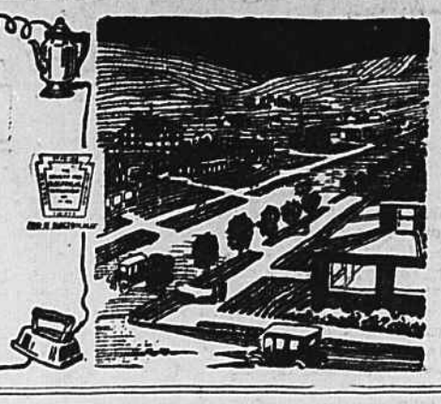


Electrify Clarksburg



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S WORKS ARE REVIEWED

With the Exception of Edison, He is Best Known of the Electrical Geniuses.

One of the distinguished figures in early American history is Benjamin Franklin. Of all the great men whose lives are linked with the development of electricity, except perhaps Edison, Franklin is best known to the average school boy. It was Franklin who obtained sparks from a wet kite during a thunderstorm—an experiment that inspired the invention of the lightning rod. As a writer, philosopher and scientist, Franklin occupies an unique place in American history. His career and achievements as a diplomatist and statesman are not less impressive.

Born in Boston in 1706, Franklin was the fifteenth of a family of seventeen. He died in 1790. As a boy he worked in his father's tallow chandlery, later becoming an apprentice to his brother, James, who was a printer of no little reputation and who established one of the earliest newspapers in the United States.

Franklin's family intended him for the ministry, but their hopes were soon dashed against his love for his printing trade, which he mastered very early in life. Owing to a disagreement with his brother, Franklin ran away to sea. Reaching New York, he could obtain no work, so he journeyed to Philadelphia, where he arrived penniless in 1723.

Franklin was a good worker and soon obtained employment at his trade from Samuel Keimer. Six years later he gained control over the Pennsylvania Gazette, which Keimer started. In 1730 he married Miss Deborah Read the daughter of the man with whom he lodged when he first arrived in Philadelphia.

The dignified and clever manner in which Franklin conducted the publication soon gained for him many friends and a position of prominence in the colonies.

While on a visit to Boston in 1746 Franklin saw Dr. Spence, a scientist recently arrived from Scotland, perform a number of electric experiments. He became deeply interested in electricity and experimented with several tubes under the direction of Peter Collinson, of London. Franklin had an idea that electricity was not created by friction and that lightning was an electrical phenomenon.

In a letter to Collinson in 1749 Franklin outlined his theories. He said:

"To determine the question whether the clouds that contain lightning are electrified or not I would propose an experiment to be tried where it may be done conveniently. On the top of some high tower or steeple place a kind of sentry box, big enough to contain a man and an electrical stand.

"From the middle of the stand let an iron rod rise and pass, bending, out of the door and then upright twenty or thirty feet, pointing very sharp at the end. If the electrical stand be kept clean and dry a man standing on it when such clouds are passing low might be electrified and afford sparks, the rod drawing the fire to him from a cloud."

In June, 1752, Franklin decided to test his ideas by the aid of a kite. Assisted by his son, the only person who knew of the experiments, Franklin constructed a kite fastening together two cross stocks to a silken handkerchief. To the upright stick he affixed an iron point. The string was made of hemp with the exception of the lower end, which was of silk. Where the hempen string terminated Franklin placed a key.

Taking their places under a shed, father and son raised the kite. A thundercloud passed over it, but no signs of electricity appeared. Franklin had given up hope and was about to pull down his kite when he observed the loose fibers of his string move toward an upright position.

Franklin pressed his knuckles against the key and received a strong shock. When the string became thoroughly wet electricity became abundant and repeated sparks were drawn from the key. A vial was charged and all the other experiments made which are usually performed with electricity.

The demonstration of the lightning theory was made in France a month before Franklin made his successful experiments in Philadelphia, although Franklin had not heard of it.

Thousands of houses are now protected from lightning through Franklin's ideas. Lightning rods offer protection when they have good metallic connection to the earth at a depth where the ground is permanently moist.

Two per cent of metallic sodium will harden lead so that it will ring when struck.

MODERN HOUSEWIFE HAS A HOME OF INVISIBLE SERVICE

Touch of a Button Here and There Does the Work These Days.

(By Grace T. Hadley.)

Mrs. Modern Housewife arises at 7 in the morning, presses a button and a flood of golden light illuminates her bedroom from an indirect lighting fixture. Passing into the bathroom, the electric vibrator rejuvenates a cheerful countenance, the electric curler rewaves her hair and the hot water cup warms the water for baby's bottle.

Within a few minutes she is dressed and descends to the dining room. A twitch of a switch and the toaster and percolator are at work while the grill broils bacon. From the automatic electric refrigerator she brings the cream, butter and eggs. Breakfast is served in the breakfast alcove, very cosily arranged and equipped for table cooking.

After the morning meal, the dishes are gathered up, placed upon a wheeled table and rolled to the electric dishwasher which handles the ware in the most rapid and approved manner.

An electric range is ready in the kitchen to cook the family dinner without fuel, ashes or fumes. At the snap of a little switch, any of the hot plates glow with heat; another switch and the broiler is ready to broil steak in the evening. The pressure of a finger and the oven is made ready for the baking of pies, cakes and bread. A constant supply of hot water is insured by an electric water heater attached to the usual kitchen water tank.

Through the day the electric vacuum cleaner searches for dust and dirt never disturbed by the old time broom. It is possible to clean with air more thoroughly than you have ever cleaned before, also more quickly, easily and economically.

The bedroom is provided with telephone connection to all parts of the house to save unnecessary steps. There is also the burglar switch, which when needed lights every lamp in the house.

Near the bedroom is the nursery with electric toys and an electrical device at the window to keep the room supplied with fresh air. There is an electric nursery outfit for the preparation of medicine, food, etc., in case of sudden illness. An electric heating pad is handy for chilly nights.

The sewing room, where Mrs. Modern Housewife spends some extra time in the morning, is equipped with electrical appliances. The sewing machine is operated by an electric motor and controlled by a foot treadle. A three and a six pound electric iron are on a convenient board and a small portable vacuum cleaner is used to pick up threads and scraps of cloth.

Down in the basement is a quiet running washing machine and wringer driven by an electric motor, and an electric mangle takes care of plain pieces. Electric irons do all the ironing, one kind being equipped with a pilot light to indicate whether or not the current has been turned off. A collapsible ironing board folds into a shallow closet.

In the garage is a light electric coupe which is charged automatically by a mercury arc rectifier. The lighting batteries are charged by a small rectifier. Electricity works without a boss and without attention.

Some one has lamented that dreams do not come true. They come true every day in the home of invisible service. If your house is wired for electricity the triple genii of the copper wire are yours to command and will bring you light, heat and power by the pressure of a button. Few women realize how greatly the art of housekeeping has been simplified within the last few years by the development of electrical appliances.

HOME COMFORTS CAN BE TAKEN ON TRIPS

Many Electrical Devices Can Be Packed Away in a Very Small Space.

There is a little three pound electric iron with a removable handle that makes it possible to pack the iron in very small space. For this reason it is a great favorite with women travelers. Who is not aghast at the wrinkles in the frocks that one takes from a trunk?

The young woman away from home will have frilly things to press when she unpacks her trunk and will find many uses for this small electrical device. A rumpled ribbon is made to look like new, bits of lace are pressed out in a jiffy, wrinkles smoothed and the frock is freshened in no time.

The fun of going away on a summer trip always depends on the balance you strike between the pleasures of the holiday spot and the discomfort of leaving cherished luxuries behind.

At the shore, at the hotels en route, in the mountains, almost everywhere, there is electric light available and there are few cases where the voltage is not standard and suited for the appliances one can bring from home. If you are travelling light be sure to take the traveller's iron with you for it is a most convenient little device. It can be carried in a valise, is easily adjusted and handy in a moment of need.

Questions and Answers

CALL WAITRESS BY MEANS OF TELEPHONE

Minneapolis Confectionery Man Believes in Doing Everything Electrically.

The owner of some confectionery shops in St. Paul and Minneapolis, is a great believer in the efficiency of electricity. In addition to the dainty electric lamps which adorn the tables of the shops, there are desk telephone sets. A pretty miss seats herself, scans the menu card, then gives her order by telephone. In a twinkling the order is placed on the table by a waitress.

Compare this with the present method of waiting ten minutes for some one to come and take the order, then another wait of perhaps fifteen minutes before the order is served. Time is saved. More customers can be served with greater speed and satisfaction.

Q. My house was built before the dawn of the electrical age, but I am waiting for a new one wired for electricity and then I shall enjoy the conveniences of a wired home, or have you any suggestion to make? Mrs. Amy Fenwick.

A. (Mrs. Amy Fenwick.) There is no reason why you should wait for a new house, for houses that are already built are being wired by the thousands every month at small cost and without any inconvenience to the occupants.

Q. How can I lighten the task of sewing and do away with the labor of driving my machine by foot power? Mrs. M. H. Haig.

A. (Mrs. M. H. Haig.) Harness electricity to your needle. The days of laborious sewing are past. Every woman who does sewing at home can now accomplish ten times as much as before without fatigue with the aid of the new portable electric motor attachment to her sewing machine.

Q. My husband is as cross as a bear mornings and complains about the breakfast—the coffee isn't right and the toast not brown enough. I confess I am not such an extra good cook. Help me, please. (Distracted.)

A. (Distracted.) Get an electric percolator and a grill and you will be sure of hot coffee and nice crisp toast electrically made. This will help to smooth the path of peace in the morning and you will note an improvement in husband's temper. It is easy to cook with the electrical devices. Percolated coffee, crisp toast and broiled bacon should make a lamb of husband!

A. Don't tell, but I am a bride and I want to surprise my mothers and sisters with a nice luncheon. Send me a menu. Mrs. J. F. Stock.

A. (Mrs. J. F. Stock.)

Luncheon.

Chafing dish Toaster Tea kettle
Creamed chicken on toast
Lettuce salad
Fruit Tea
326 watts Cost 3c

BOSS OF BRONX ZOO BURDENED BY SKUNK

Curator Ditmars Doesn't Know What to Do With Animal He Borrowed.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Does anybody want a good, tame specimen of the Mephitis mephitica? Raymond L. Ditmars, curator of the Bronx Zoo, has one he wants, oh so badly, to get rid of.

The curator decided some time ago that his exploits in nature study were incomplete. He had finger printed the orang-outang and milked the venom from a lancehead viper, and his neighbors had once threatened to go to law unless he gave up the colony of katydids that he kept in his studio. But he had never taken a motion picture of a genuine, wood bred skunk at close range. The queerest part of it was that he wanted to do just that thing.

The wood pussies at the zoo would not do. They are old and lazy. He searched for a real, lively pussy with a mean disposition. At last about two weeks ago he heard that a farmer in Valhalla had caught one alive in a trap. Up he went to Valhalla with a specially constructed, airproof asbestos box and he borrowed the skunk.

Back to his studio at his home in Scarsdale he took it. He let it out in the studio and then he buried the box. He spent three days getting on friendly terms with little Mephitis and the creature got to know him so well that at last he brought his camera and a supply of formaldehyde into the room and left with a unique film of a genuine rip roaring wood pussy in war maneuvers.

Then came the problem of getting the skunk back. Mr. Ditmars built a bomb proof trap and set it in the studio. Mr. Skunk consented to enter it and later off for Valhalla went Mr. Ditmars.

"Here's your skunk back and I can't say how deeply grateful I am for the loan," he told the farmer.

The farmer reached for a rake. "If you let that unholy beast loose within 150 miles of Valhalla station I'll sue you!" he shouted.

Mr. Ditmars, dumbfounde, took little Mephitis back to Scarsdale. He can't give it to the zoo. He admits that there wouldn't be a man, woman or child within ten miles of the park if he did. And when this story comes out he fears that his neighbors at Scarsdale will organize a Ku Klux Klan of else cancel their leases.

Anybody who will give little Mephitis a good home can have him on application at the curator's office.

EDISON IS SIXTY-NINE.

Thomas A. Edison, commonly known as "The Wizard of Menlo Park," has just passed his sixty-ninth birthday. Next week's electurette will review the achievements of Mr. Edison.

Some Helpful Hints

"The other day," remarked a Brooklyn housewife, "I discovered a most satisfactory and I believe, novel use for my new electric vacuum cleaner, which all good housekeepers may be glad to know about.

"Heretofore when an accumulation of soot made it necessary to clean out the stove or furnace, I picked out the oldest apron I had, donned it and after wrapping my head with a turban, Turkish fashion, I removed most of the soot with the little shovel and a garden trowel. During this disagreeable operation, my temper was none of the best and the atmosphere was filled with impalpable particles of dirt which seemed to penetrate everywhere.

"Then suddenly I had an inspiration and after starting the vacuum cleaner, I put the big suction end into the stove over the top place and presto, the soot was removed as if by magic. So far as flying particles were concerned, I might have had on a white dress without its getting a single smudge. Hereafter, no more dust brushes for me when cleaning out a stove or furnace, just take the vacuum cleaner, turn the switch on a side wall and watch the dirt disappear."

COLD COFFEE IS FOLLOWED BY HOT WORDS

Electric Percolator Solves All These Early Morning Differences.

"My dear, the coffee is cold again. It is abominable to sit down to the table morning after morning and find cold coffee."

"Well I told you breakfast was ready and you said you'd be right down. That was fifteen minutes ago. Now don't blame me."

The solution of these early morning differences is the electric coffee percolator. Properly connected to the electrical circuit, the coffee is ready to serve ten minutes after the current is on and the cost of current is nominal. The same electric current that makes the coffee will toast bread or grill the bacon so that the entire breakfast may be served nice and hot, if cooked by wire at the table.

PASTORS KEEP FLOCKS UNDER LOCK AND KEY

Force Used by Preachers to Keep Church Members Away from Dance.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Feb. 12.—One way to keep church members from going to dances is to lock them in church. This plan has been tried with success by the pastors of the three Phoenix negro congregations.

Recently a local lodge of colored men announced that its annual ball would be held on a certain evening. The pastors of the African Methodist Episcopal church, Second Baptist church and the Tanner Chapel went among their respective flocks and urged them not to indulge in the sinful pastime of dancing. They were soon convinced, however, that most of the negro residents of Phoenix intended to be at that ball, no matter what their spiritual leaders thought about it.

Thereupon the ministers announced special prayer meetings for the evening of the ball. Certain members of their congregations then decided they would attend prayer meeting early in the evening and then go to the ball, thus serving God and Terpsichore in the same evening.

But at each place the prayer meeting was unaccountably prolonged. Some in the rear pews thought to slip quietly out through the door. The door was locked. So were the windows.

Explanations were demanded, but the only explanation forthcoming was that the way to freedom and the dance would not be open till prayer meeting was over. And it wasn't. It was after midnight when the pastors got tired of praying.

Mica deposits sufficiently large to develop exist in twenty states.

Copper produced in the United States last year valued at $236,000,000.

"Lizzie, where did you get the fish we had for supper last night?"

"I got them at Smithy's, wern't they fine.